



Our Scholars Say...

“The National Security Scholars Program presents students with a unique experience and wonderful connections. Being able to hold an internship at a company that aims to make a difference for the country we all love is the most rewarding experience I could ask for.”

~ Notre Dame of Maryland University,
TechUSA intern

“The interview process for becoming a NSSP scholar was an extensive one. From the polygraph testing to the psychological exam, I truly understood that this privilege of obtaining a security clearance was not to take lightly. I understood the work I would be trusted with is crucial to the safety of countless people.”

~ Stevenson University, Leidos intern

“My double major in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mathematics and Statistics will provide me with a meaningful and dynamic engineering education that will hopefully allow me to make a significant contribution to the field of national security after graduation. With this monetary assistance I am one step closer to my dreams.”

~ Johns Hopkins University, NSA intern

The National Security Scholars Program (NSSP) is an exclusive program only available through the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) to full-time undergraduates attending one of the following member colleges and universities:

Capitol Technology University
 Goucher College
 Hood College
 Johns Hopkins University
 Loyola University Maryland
 McDaniel College
 Mount St. Mary’s University
 Notre Dame of Maryland University
 St. John’s College
 Stevenson University
 Washington Adventist University
 Washington College

For more information, please contact
 Lori Livingston at llivinston@micua.org
 or visit micua.org/nssp.



Independent College Fund
 of Maryland

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National Security Scholars Program



and

the National Security Agency





“I feel that being a part of the National Security Scholars Program is a huge stepping stone for the beginning of my career. The chance to obtain a security clearance will open up many other opportunities after graduation.”

~ Mount St. Mary’s University,
Exceptional Software Strategies intern

Overview

Protecting our nation’s most critical assets from hazards—both internal and external, natural and man-made—makes the national security field a vital focus for the future. Cyber security, in particular, is one area posing complex challenges for the world today. It underpins almost every facet of modern society and provides critical support for the U.S. economy, civil infrastructure, public safety, and national security. Information technology has transformed the global economy and connected people in ways never imagined.

Responding to the needs of the national security industry, the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) helps develop a workforce prepared to handle the many aspects of protecting our nation through its National Security Scholars Program (NSSP). The I-Fund links students interested in serving their country with defense industry giants through the NSSP. The program provides a unique opportunity for scholars to explore a future in the field of national security and offers a road map to potential employment upon graduation.

Return on Investment

Just 10% of program donations are maintained for administrative costs—with 90% allocated directly to students.

Program Benefits for Scholars

- Paid internship opportunities with defense and intelligence industry giants
- Assistance with processing toward a valuable national security clearance
- The chance to explore a meaningful and challenging career path in national security
- Scholarships sent directly to the I-Fund member college or university for the academic year following the year in which application is submitted

Candidate Eligibility

- Must be a U.S. citizen at time of application
- Must be a full-time undergraduate attending an I-Fund member college or university
- Must be a sophomore or junior with a minimum of 24 credit hours at October application deadline
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Must have a career interest in the national security field
- Preferred majors include: Business • Computer Forensics • Computer Science • Cyber Security • Economics • Engineering (Software—JAVA, Cloud, Ruby-on-Rails, C, C++, C#, Computer, Electrical & Systems) • Forensic Accounting • Information Assurance • Information Systems • International Affairs/Relations/Area Studies • Mathematics • and related fields to these majors. Consideration will also be given to Accounting, Finance, History, Languages (Chinese, Persian Farsi, Russian, Korean, Arabic, Pashto, and Urdu), Liberal Arts, Physics, and Political Science
- Must submit signed application and supporting documents by deadline
- Must be available for an in-person interview on November 15 or 16 (check www.micua.org/nssp for more information)
- Must successfully complete security clearance process by May 15
- Must be willing to accept a paid summer internship with a program partner

To Apply

Application is available online at www.micua.org/nssp. Please email llivingston@micua.org of your intent to apply and submit a completed (typed and signed) original application to your campus liaison by the deadline. The following information must be submitted:

- Resume included with your application;
- 300–500 word essay (see website for details);
- Two signed letters of recommendation; and
- Certified transcript of grades.

Internships

All applicants must be willing to accept a paid summer internship, if offered. Information about housing availability is provided during the interview process.

- Internship opportunities are available with the private sector and NSA and are contingent upon national security clearance completion and approval.
- Candidates who have received approval for national security clearance are reviewed by the NSSP board for internship placement with program partners and scholarship award.

TIMELINE

October 19, 2018

Completed application and all supporting documents must be received by your Financial Aid Office no later than this date

November 1

Applicants notified by email regarding eligibility for an interview

November 15 & 16

Candidate face-to-face interviews scheduled

December 1

Program semi-finalists notified

December 2018 – May 2019

Security clearance processing ongoing; students are notified of results

Late May/Early June

Students approved for clearance are notified of internship assignments by May 15 and of scholarship awards in early June